GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1911
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
SHIP BREAKING INDUSTRY
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Indian ship breaking industry during the last three years and its future prospects;

(b) the capacity available for ship breaking in Government and Private Sectors and availability of skilled manpower for the jobs;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further strengthen the industry to make it internationally competitive and take measures for personal safety of workers engaged in danger-prone operations of ship breaking; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a)to(d): Based on the reports received from Iron Steel Scrap and Ship-breakers Association of India and Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), it is estimated that the private agencies have a total capacity to recycle ships to the tune of around 4 million Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) per year.The actual tonnage broken during the last three years from 2005-06 to 2007-08 was however around 1.7 million LDT. In the current year 2008-09, ship breaking amounted to around 0.5 million LDT till October. Ship-breaking activities in India are confined to the private sector only. Skilled man power is presently available in this field. Strengthening and modernizing of the ship-breaking industry is a continuous process. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, various measures had been put in place for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and substantial improvements have taken place in respect of safety measures at the ship breaking yards. Further, as and when any shortcomings are noticed, remedial steps are taken.